

## COAL AND ASPHALT DEPOSITS.

DECEMBER 17, 1920.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CARTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 15011.]

Your Committee on Indian Affairs respectfully reports this bill with an amendment, viz: Strike out lines 4, 5, 6, and 7 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

reappraise and offer for sale the remainder of the segregated coal and asphalt deposits in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in the State of Oklahoma, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him in accordance with the act of February 8, 1918 (U. S. Stats. L. 40, p. 433), as to terms and conditions of payment; and the unexpended balance appropriated by said act of February 8, 1918: is hereby reappropriated and authorized to be expended out of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribal funds for this purpose,

so that the bill will read:

That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to reappraise and offer for sale the remainder of the segregated coal and asphalt deposits in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in the State of Oklahoma, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him in accordance with the act of February 8, 1918 (U. S. Stats. L. 40, p. 433), as to terms and conditions of payment; and the unexpended balance appropriated by said act of February 8, 1918, is hereby reappropriated and authorized to be expended out of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribal funds for this purpose.

The three sales provided by the act of February 8, 1918, have been carried out by the Secretary of the Interior, leaving a considerable residue of the Choctaw-Chickasaw coal and asphalt deposits unsold, and this legislation is necessary for the consummation of these sales as contemplated by Congress. The Secretary of the Interior recommends the passage of the bill as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 15, 1920.*

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: I am in receipt of H. R. 15011, introduced in the House of Representatives on December 13, 1920, by Mr. Carter, of Oklahoma, entitled "A bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to offer for sale remainder of the coal and asphalt deposits in segregated mineral land in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, State of Oklahoma," with your informal request for a report thereon.

The act of Congress approved February 8, 1918 (40 Stat. L., 433), authorized the Secretary of the Interior to offer for sale at public auction the coal and asphalt mineral deposits belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in Oklahoma, covering an area of 441,107 acres, and three sales have been held as provided by that act.

At the first sale held December 11, 12, 13, and 14, 1918, 54 tracts, leased and unleased, covering an area of 42,103 acres were sold at an average price per acre of \$32.39, for a total of \$1,363,645.17.

At the second sale held November 13, 14, and 15, 1919, seven tracts, leased and unleased, covering an area of 4,426.44 acres were sold at an average price per acre of \$25.10, for a total of \$111,116.

At the third sale held June 16 and 17, 1920, 33 tracts, leased and unleased, covering an area of 15,293.10 acres were sold at an average price per acre of \$33.04, for a total of \$505,312.96.

At the three sales held, a total of 94 tracts, leased and unleased, covering an area of 61,822.54 acres were sold at an average price per acre of \$32.03, for a total of \$1,980,074.13, thus leaving unsold 423 tracts covering an area of 379,284.46 acres, of an estimated value (excluding surface) of \$11,273,715.98.

Under existing law, there is no provision for any further offering of the coal and asphalt deposits of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and H. R. 15011 is intended to vest authority in the Secretary of the Interior to sell the remaining unsold coal and asphalt mineral deposits under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him. I recommend that favorable action thereon be taken.

Cordially, yours,

JOHN BARTON PAYNE,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. H. P. SNYDER,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives.*

Your committee therefore recommends that the bill do pass.

